



## Bossert waste removal to begin

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Observer-Dispatch

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin removing hazardous wastes from the Bossert Manufacturing Corp. site in Utica today or tomorrow. The task could take as long as two months.

Cleaning the vacant building at 1002 Oswego St. and removing barrels of hazardous wastes from there will cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000, Utica Civil Defense Director Charles Ferro said yesterday.

The EPA, which mobilized equipment and personnel at the site yesterday, will pay for the entire clean-up.

In April 1986, state Department of Conservation (DEC) inspectors took samples of oils and acids at the site that revealed the substances were hazardous. DEC officials have said the PCBs and acids found inside the building do not pose an imminent threat to the environment or community health or safety. The building was secured last June with the help of \$3,500 in state funds.

PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, is a suspected cancer-causing substance that in small doses can irritate the throat and lungs. PCBs at Bossert were found in storage pits or sumps mixed with oil and water.

EPA officials who will oversee the clean-up were reported enroute to the site last night and unavailable for comment. But Ferro, who said he discussed the matter with EPA officials a few weeks ago, said the clean-up will entail:

- The removal of electrical transformers contaminated by PCB oils.
- The sampling and removal of 160 drums of unknown materials.
- The removal of asbestos-insulated pipes.
- The establishment of a small metal-cleaning operation at the site, equipped to clean contaminated metals.
- The removal of sumps containing oil believed to be contaminated by PCBs.
- The review and possible removal of at least one underground storage tank that may contain hazardous materials.